and one cutter suction dredger available with Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). Procurement of more dredgers is under process for handling these shallow patches timely and more effectively. An Action Plan comprising of 16 projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 203.10 crores has been prepared for making the National Waterway fully functional. Out of these, 13 projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 178.25 crores have been sanctioned and are under implementation. Rs. 18.65 crores has been spent on these projects till 28th February, 2007.

(c) There are existing fora which include elected representatives for review of Inland Water Transport Sector and it is felt that at present there is no need to constitute another committee for monitoring purposes.

Construction of flyover at Badarpur border

*243. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the construction of a proposed flyover to be built at T-junction of Delhi-Faridabad-Jaitpur village (Badarpur border) at National Highway;

(b) the names of Government and Non-Government agencies involved therein;

(c) the proposed date of start of construction of the said project and the projected period of completion; and

(d) the strategies evolved to complete the proposed project in stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) It is proposed to construct a signal free elevated highway including approaches from km 16.100 to km 20.500 on NH-2 (Delhi-Agra Section) covering 5 major junctions including the 'T' junction of Delhi-Faridabad-Jaitpur Village at an estimated cost of Rs. 267 crore.

(b) The National Highways Authority of India is the implementing agency for the above project. The Support Agreement is to be signed by Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and Government of Haryana. The clearances are also required from Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC) and Archeological Survey of India (ASI).

(c) and (d) The clearance from the Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) has already been obtained for the project. After getting clearance from DDA, DUAC and ASI, the bidding process will be started and this process may take three months' time. The selected Concessionaire will have six months' time for the financial closure and thirty months' time thereafter for completion of the project.

Concern over use of weapons in Space

†*244. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are concerned over use of weapons in space;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government for shielding against such weapons; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for carrying out deliberations in this regard with other countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Government are concerned that the longstanding international consensus on peaceful uses of outer space might be undermined by deployment of weapons in outer space as well as testing and deployment of weapons against outer space objects.

(b) and (c) Government continue to monitor developments on this subject and are committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security in accordance with its own assessment. Government continue to be engaged with international efforts to keep outer space free of weapons.

Setting up of National Science and Social Science Foundation

*245. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a view on the recommendation of National Knowledge Commission regarding setting up of a National Science and Social Science Foundation (NSSF);

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.